15

13+ TEEN

Batgirl™

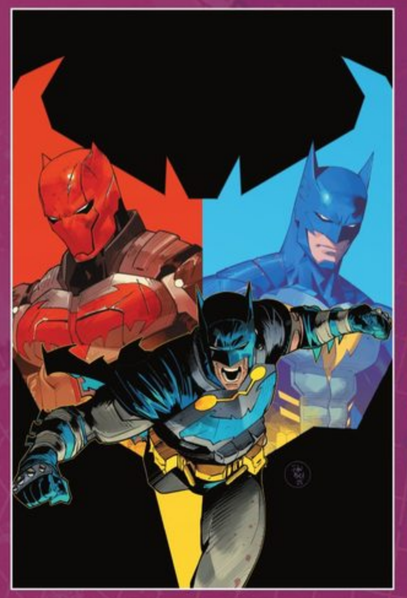
CALM BEFORE THE STORM

ALL IN

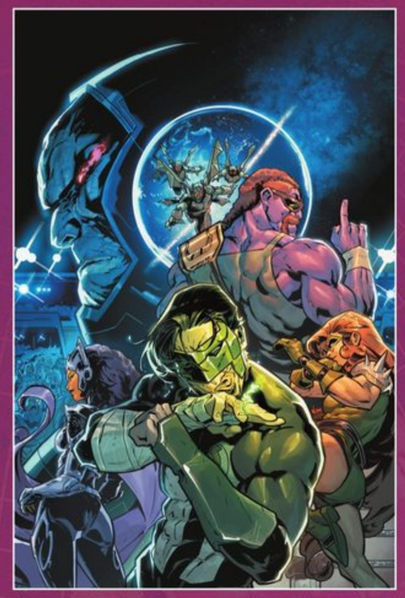
BROMBAL
SEGOVIA
BEREDO

START THE NEW YEAR

WITH HARD-HITTING DC K.O. TIE-INS ON SALE THIS JANUARY!

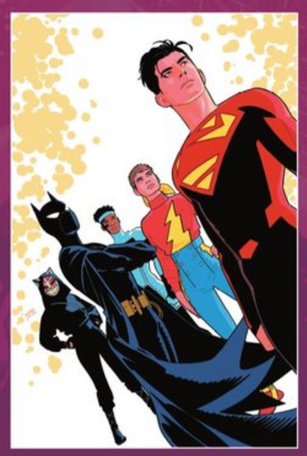


DC K.O. KNIGHTFIGHT #3



DC K.O.: GREEN LANTERN GALACTIC SLAM #1

TITANS #31



DC K.O.: THE KIDS ARE ALL FIGHT SPECIAL #1

SUPERMAN #34

THE FLASH #29

JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED #15

DC K.O.

CONTINUES IN FEBRUARY WITH THE BIGGEST TWIST YET!

AAAH!

FIRST COME *PUNCHES,* THEN COME *BULLETS.*

SOMEONE NEEDS TO TEACH MY *DAUGHTER--*

--HOW TO *BLEED!*

CAROLYN.

IT'S THE *BLOOD!*

I'LL GO HIGH.

AND I'LL GO *LOW!*

WAIT.

WHO ARE *YOU?*

LOOK UPON YOUR *ACTS.*

BEAR *WITNESS* TO WHAT YOU HAVE BECOME...

DESTROYER.

GOT YOU!

JAYA?!

BUT-- --BATS DON'T LIKE THE LIGHT!

REACH FOR THE *LIGHT,* BATGIRL!

ALL THE MORE *DIFFICULT,* THEN.

WAIT.

YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO *SEE* ME LIKE THIS...

AHH, GET OVER IT!

THE NIGHTMARES WILL NOT *END* UNTIL YOU KNOW THE *TRUTH,* BATGIRL.

UNTIL YOU *ACCEPT* THE TRUTH!

THERE CAN BE NO *JUSTICE* UNTIL IT ALL COMES TO *LIGHT!* FIND THE *TRUTH.*

HOW?

HEED MY WARNING, BATGIRL--

YOU WILL BE *BETRAYED,* AGAIN AND AGAIN AND *AGAIN.*

WHAT?

WHO WILL YOU *BECOME* IN THE FACE OF SO MUCH *DEATH?*

NOW--

WAIT!

--WAKE UP!

CASSIE--?!

WAKE UP, CASSIE! YOU'RE *SHAKING!* YOU'RE--

OFF ME!

HH!

HH!

HH!

CASSIE, ARE YOU OKAY...?

YOU DISAPPEARED AFTER THE MISSION. I FOUND YOU--

I *NEVER* SHOULD'VE BROUGHT YOU HERE.

NEVER SHOULD'VE *MET* YOU.

WHAT? DON'T SAY THAT.

MOM SENT YOU TO ME FOR A *REASON,* REMEMBER? THAT'S THE *TRUTH.*

YOU WANT *TRUTH?*

YOU MAKE THINGS ***WORSE.*** AGAIN AND ***AGAIN.***

IS THIS ABOUT THE MISSION?

I-I'M SORRY, CASSIE, BUT I ***SAW*** SOMETHING DOWN THERE.

THE UNBURIED ARE PLANNING SOMETHING, ***DIGGING*** SOMETHING, SO I INVESTIGATED JUST LIKE ***YOU*** WOULD DO!

YOU ARE NOTHING LIKE ME.

NO. DON'T SAY THAT EITHER.

YOU ARE ***NOTHING*** LIKE OUR MOTHER. ***LADY SHIVA*** LEFT HER VENGEANCE TO ***ME.***

VENGEANCE...?

CASSIE, THIS IS ABOUT ***JUSTICE.***

THEN ***WHY*** AM I STILL ***ALIVE?!***

STOP! THIS ISN'T ***YOU!***

YOU FEEL ***GUILTY!*** YOU HAVEN'T SLEPT MUCH AND ARE HAVING NIGHTMARES! I ***GET*** IT!

NO!

YOU SLEEP ***EASY.*** I DO NOT ***SLEEP*** AT ALL!

THAT'S MY GIRL...

NO WASTED ***JABS.***

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?! WE'RE ***SIBLINGS!***

BECAUSE ***THIS--***

--IS WHAT ***FAMILIES--***

--DO!

WHAT IS *GOING ON* HERE?!

thk

thk

thk

thk

LET'S *REDIRECT* SOME OF THAT *VIOLENT* ENERGY AND--

--GIVE YOUR *HEART CHAKRAS* A LITTLE *PUSH!*

BREATHE.

HYUHH!

YOU MAY FEEL A LITTLE *WOOZY,* AS SOME LONG-UNTAPPED *EMOTIONS* SURGE BACK THROUGH--

THIS IS **NOT** WHAT FAMILIES **DO.**

IT **ISN'T.**

IT **CAN'T BE!**

TENJI?

BATGIRL...?

WHAT'D YOU...

...**DO** TO ME, JAYA?

CAREFUL. NORMALLY I DON'T TAKE SUCH A **DIRECT** APPROACH WITH MY PATIENTS, BUT--

YOU HAVE **WALLS,** BATGIRL, THAT APPARENTLY EVEN **YOU** CANNOT CLIMB. HAVE YOU ALWAYS HAD SUCH **VIOLENT** COPING MECHANISMS?

OF COURSE.

YOUR MOTHER WAS **LADY SHIVA.**

AND THE MAN WHO **RAISED** ME WAS EVEN WORSE.

YOU WERE IN MY DREAM.

I-I WAS?

YOU ***WARNED*** ME. TOLD ME...REACH FOR THE ***LIGHT.***

I SEE. HAVE YOU ALWAYS HAD SUCH PROPHETIC DREAMS?

SOMETIMES. USUALLY ABOUT SOMEONE ***ELSE.***

A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ***SPIRIT WORLD***, I SUSPECT.

LET ME THINK. REACH FOR THE LIGHT...

OF COURSE. THE ***LOTUS*** FROM THE ***MUD.***

WHAT?

IT'S AN OLD ***TEACHING,*** SOMETHING MY FATHER USED TO SAY...

YOU SEE, THE ***LOTUS FLOWER*** CANNOT SPROUT FROM THE SOIL IN THE LIGHT OF ***DAY.*** IT NEEDS THE DARK AND THE MUDDIEST OF ***WATERS*** TO GROW.

IT REACHES UPWARDS TOWARD A ***LIGHT*** IT'S NEVER KNOWN, THEN, ABOVE IT ALL, THE LOTUS ***BLOOMS*** BENEATH THE GLORIOUS SUN...

...STILL ROOTED STRONG IN ITS ***DARK ORIGINS.***

THE LOTUS FEELS NO ***SHAME*** FOR ITS BEGINNINGS, BATGIRL. IT MAY HAVE ***COME*** FROM THE DARKNESS, BUT THAT IS NOT WHERE IT ***AIMS.***

IN THE SAME WAY, ***WE*** EMERGE VICTORIOUS AND TRANSFORMED ***BECAUSE*** OF OUR HARDSHIPS, NOT ***IN SPITE*** OF THEM.

HEALING IS A ***JOURNEY,*** AND THE ***DECISION*** TO HEAL IS THE MOST DANGEROUS OF ALL.

YOU MUST REOPEN WOUNDS THAT ***NEVER*** HEALED, THEN TEND TO THEM ANEW AND RISK ***BLEEDING OUT.***

IT IS ***PAIN,*** YES, BUT TRUE HEALING IS ***REVOLUTIONARY.***

I HAVE DONE... *UNSPEAKABLE* THINGS. I WILL NEVER HEAL.

TOO MUCH.

TO *HEAL.*

MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE YOUR MOTHER BECAME *LADY SHIVA* THE DAY SHE LOST HER SISTER, BUT I KNOW THE *TEXTS.*

YOUR MOTHER BECAME *MORE* THE DAY SHE GAVE UP HER EARTHLY *DESIRES,* THE DAY SHE ABANDONED HER *VENGEANCE.*

THE DAY SHE GAVE BIRTH TO *YOU.*

MY MOTHER SAID, WHEN I WAS BORN...

...I BECAME HER *SOFTNESS.* BUT WHAT IF SHE WAS *WRONG...?*

WHAT IF *I* AM HER *VENGEANCE?*

YOU ARE IN CONTROL OF YOUR *DESTINY,* BATGIRL. YOU *CHOOSE* WHAT YOU WILL BECOME.

WILL YOU SUCCUMB TO THE *DARKNESS...?*

OR WILL YOU REACH FOR THE *LIGHT?*

MAYBE SHE'S RIGHT?

I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR THIS.

THE WORLD IS ***NOTHING*** LIKE THE RANCH OR THE STORIES IN MY COMICS. IT'S SO MUCH ***WORSE.***

DAD WAS ***WRONG...***

I'M NOT A ***HERO.***

!

THERE'S MORE GOING ON HERE.

THAT AL GHUL LADY IS ***HIDING*** SOMETHING, I KNOW IT...

3-6-4-9

"...MAYBE I CAN STILL BE THE ***HERO.***"

DOOT DOOT DOOT

3-6-4-9.

3-6-4-9.

DON'T ***FORGET*** THE SECURITY CODE, TENJI. YOU'RE GONNA UNCOVER THE ***SECRET*** VILLAINOUS PLOT IN THE ***SECRET*** CREEPY BASE AND THEN--

OH.

A ***HOSPITAL...?***

SHE REALLY IS JUST ***HELPING*** PEOPLE...?

IS *THAT* WHAT YOU CALL IT?

MY *PEOPLE* WOULD LIKE A WORD, TINY BOY.

HAH! HAH! HAH!

YOU KNOW, BATGIRL, BEFORE THE ***UNBURIED*** RETURNED FROM THE ***DEPTHS*** OF THE EARTH...

...***SAMSARA*** HAD NO NEED FOR SUCH ***WEAPONS.***

THOUGH I SUPPOSE THE ***EYESORE*** IS A CONSTANT REMINDER THAT ***HEAVEN*** IS ALWAYS UNDER THREAT OF ***HELL.***

ENOUGH.

TELL ME THE ***TRUTH,*** NYSSA.

ALL OF IT.

AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU ASKED TO SEE ME BECAUSE I'M SUCH GOOD ***COMPANY.***

YOU LIED. ***BETRAYED.***

THE MISSION WAS ***DESTROY*** POPPIES, NOT ***STEAL*** THEM FOR YOURSELF.

I'M SORRY, AM I MEANT TO DIVULGE ALL STATE ***SECRETS*** TO YOU, BATGIRL? I COULD AFFORD NO ***LEAKS.***

TRUTH.

NOW.

ISN'T IT ***OBVIOUS,*** DAUGHTER OF THE GREAT ***DETECTIVE...?***

WITH THOSE **BLUE POPPIES,** I COULD BUILD A **HUNDRED SAMSARAS** ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

I DO NOT WANT THEM FOR **WAR,** AS THE UNBURIED USE THEM. NO, I NEED THEM TO TAKE MY **MISSION** GLOBAL...

...TO **HEAL** THIS PLANET AND TRULY BRING **HEAVEN** TO EARTH.

WHY SHOULD THEY KEEP SUCH POWER, SUCH **GOOD,** TO THEMSELVES?

YOUR FAMILY HAS **LAZARUS PITS.** HEAL THE WORLD WITH **YOURS.**

BRILLIANT IDEA, BATGIRL.

TOO BAD THAT WAS THE FIRST THING THEY **TOOK** FROM ME. THE UNBURIED SOMEHOW KNEW MY PIT'S LOCATION, AND THEY **DESTROYED** IT.

LIKE **YOU** ONCE DESTROYED **THEM.**

I SAW THE **TRUTH.** SAMSARA WAS ONCE **THEIR** LAND.

AND IT WAS **ABANDONED** FOR CENTURIES.

THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE WERE **LONG BURIED,** THOUGHT DEAD, AND IT WAS **RUINS** UNTIL I REBUILT IT.

YOU SAID YOUR **FATHER** KILLED THE BLUE MONKS. THAT **YOU** WERE INNOCENT.

BUT I SAW **BOTH** THE DEMON'S HEAD **AND** HIS DAUGHTER STANDING OVER THEIR **CORPSES.**

YOU WANT THE **TRUTH?**

YES, MY FATHER AND I, **TOGETHER,** SPENT YEARS SEARCHING FOR THE **HIDDEN VALLEY** OF THE **BLUE MOON.**

WE FOLLOWED HALF-TORN **MAPS** AND WHISPERS LIKE **BREADCRUMBS** UNTIL FINALLY WE FOUND THOSE **GATES--**

"--AND IT WAS ***GREATER*** THAN WE EVER COULD HAVE ***IMAGINED.***

"NO STRIFE NOR SUFFERING, ONLY ***PEACE.*** NO MATTER WHERE YOU CAME FROM OR WHAT YOU'D ***SURVIVED,*** IN THIS HIDDEN VALLEY YOU WERE ***SAFE.***

"IT WAS MY FATHER'S ***DREAM*** MADE REALITY, AND WHILE I FELT ***HOPE*** THAT EVEN HEAVEN ON EARTH WAS POSSIBLE...

"...MY FATHER FELT ONLY ***ENVY.*** THIS WAS ***HIS*** DREAM, AFTER ALL, AND HE ALONE SHOULD BE ITS ***ARCHITECT.***

"HIS ENVY TURNED TO RAGE, AND I AWOKE TO ***HELL*** BREACHING HEAVEN'S ***GATES.***

"BUT NO BLOOD FELL BY ***MY*** HANDS, BATGIRL. I ***SWEAR*** IT.

IT HAPPENED RIGHT ***HERE.***

SOIL SATURATED WITH THEIR ***BLOOD,*** AND FROM THAT ***DEATH*** BLOOMED THOSE BLUE POPPIES. FROM MY FATHER'S ***HORRORS*** SPROUTED NEW ***LIFE.***

THERE IS A ***REASON*** I PARTED WAYS WITH HIM, BATGIRL. THERE IS A ***REASON*** I USED MY MOTHER'S ***NAME*** FOR SO MANY YEARS...

I AM ***NOT*** MY FATHER. I AM ***MORE.***

MUCH LIKE *YOU* AND YOUR MOTHER, NO?

SHOULD WE NOT FIND OUR OWN *JUSTICE* IN THE SHADOWS OF THEIR *HORRORS?*

"CHILD OF *SHIVA--?*

WORLD'S GREATEST *HERO?*

HAHAHA! I LIKE YOU, KID. MUCH BETTER THAN YOUR *SISTER.*

HUH?

WHY DO YOU *SNEAK* AROUND, GREAT HERO?

DO YOU LOSE *FAITH* IN THIS REGIME OF SHADOWS? DO NOT WORRY. SAMSARA WILL *FALL.*

NYSSA *SUCKS,* YEAH, BUT WHAT SHE'S DOING IS *HELPING* PEOPLE. I STAND WITH *THAT,* NOT THE VILLAINS WHO *TEAR* IT DOWN.

BESIDES, I JUST WATCHED YOUR UNBURIED FRIENDS GET *RE*BURIED. WAR'S OVER, *BRO.*

IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK?

HEHEHEH...

"WHAT *COLOR* IS THE *SKY?"*

I BEG YOUR--

ANSWER.

BLUE, OF COURSE. WHY?

EVEN WHEN YOU STATE A *FACT...*

...I CAN'T READ IF IT'S *TRUTH* OR *LIE.*

FANCY THAT. I SHOULD TRY MY HAND AT *POKER.*

A *BYPRODUCT,* I SUPPOSE, OF THE HORRORS COMMITTED AGAINST MY FLESH, LEAVING ME *NUMB.*

"WE WERE *BORN* BURIED, CHILD...

THIS *LAND* WAS OURS AND ITS *MAPS* STILL LIVE AND BREATHE ON OUR *TONGUES,* PASSED FROM DEAD TO LIVING.

THE DEMON'S DAUGHTER CAN BUILD HER WALLS AND *MOUNT* HER *GUNS,* BUT WE...

...WE KNOW THE *PATHS* LONG LOST, NOW *UNBURIED.*

THE *TUNNEL--*

THE ONE I *FOUND* THAT TRIPPED THE ALARM. IT LEADS *HERE...*

"...THE *UNBURIED* ARE PLANNING A SURPRISE ATTACK FROM *BELOW!*"

I FOUND NO *PEACE.* THERE'S NO *JUSTICE* FOR ME HERE.

I AM LEAVING SAMSARA.

I-I NEED TO ***WARN*** HER BEFORE IT'S TOO--

CAN YOU REALLY...

...NOT ***FEEL?***

NOT A HEARTBREAK NOR THE SUN ON MY SKIN.

HAH!

TOO LATE, SON OF SHIVA.

LUCKY.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MY BROTHER...

"...HE DESERVES ***BETTER*** THAN ME."

HELL HAS COME TO ***PAY!***

JAYA...?

KRAK

PAK

NEED TO GET OUT!

NEED TO WARN HER!

HAVE YOU SEEN JAYA?

I NEED TO SAY GOODBYE.

NO. SORRY.

$#!%!

WHAT WAS THE CODE? WHAT WAS THE--

C'MON. C'MON!

ACCESS DENIED

DOOT DOOT

ENH

WHERE IS EVERYONE?

--SURPRISE ATTACK!

THEY'RE ALREADY **HERE,** NYSSA! THEY'RE **LOCKED** IN YOUR CREEPY BASE, BUT I **KNOW** THEY'LL GET OUT!

WHU-WHY ARE YOU JUST **STANDING** THERE?!

EVACUATE THE PEOPLE! **SEND** IN THE TROOPS! **WHATEVER!**

DO SOMETHING!

THE **CONCERN** IS MUCH **APPRECIATED,** LITTLE TIGER...

...BUT EVERYTHING, AND I MEAN **EVERYTHING--**

--IS GOING **EXACTLY** AS PLANNED.

DOOT DOOT DOOT

THANK YOU, LOYAL JAYA, FOR *EVERYTHING.*

OF COURSE, KALDEN.

DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS

BATGIRL

THE WAR OF SHADOWS PART 4

TATE BROMBAL WRITER STEPHEN SEGOVIA ARTIST
RAIN BEREDO COLORS STEVE WANDS LETTERS REIKO MURAKAMI COVER
JORGE FORNÉS VARIANT COVER JESSICA BERBEY EDITOR ROB LEVIN GROUP EDITOR

WHAT IS *BURIED* WILL ALWAYS COME TO *LIGHT.*

NEXT:

BETRAYED?!

COMICS' BEST UNITE FOR A CELEBRATION OF WONDER.

WONDER WOMAN BLACK and GOLD 2026 SPECIAL

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UNFORGETTABLE SHORT STORIES BY

TOM KING & MITCH GERADS

STEVE ORLANDO & ROSSI GIFFORD

ALYSSA WONG & KAREN S. DARBOE

JORDIE BELLAIRE & PAULINA GANUCHEAU

Cover by CLIFF CHIANG

JANUARY

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

DC BLACK LABEL

SIRENS

LOVE HURTS

INTERVIEW WITH TINI HOWARD

Get ready for Gotham's most stylish crime story yet! Writer Tini Howard takes us inside *Sirens: Love Hurts*, a four-issue Black Label series that unites her with artist Babs Tarr for an all-new tale of friendship, murder, and romance. Blending the moody, seasonal structure of *Batman: The Long Halloween* with the emotional punch of *Sex and the City*, *Sirens: Love Hurts* follows Poison Ivy, Harley Quinn, Catwoman, and Black Canary through one unforgettable year in Gotham.

What was the origin story of this book?
It actually started as a conversation with DC Editorial, who had the idea for a Sirens story inspired by *Sex and the City*. They said, "This is the book we want to do, and we think these people should make it." Of course, I couldn't say yes fast enough. I had just come off *Catwoman* and *Harley Quinn*, and it felt like the perfect way to keep exploring Gotham in our own little corner.

What can you tell fans about the new villain debuting in the book?
We're introducing a new Gotham villain named Horoscope. She's similar to Calendar Man, but with a celestial motif. She's sexy, dangerous, and a little unhinged, the anti-girl's girl. It's been so fun to craft a villain whose beliefs directly clash with our Sirens' values.

Who do you hope reads *Sirens: Love Hurts*?
Anyone who's ever loved these characters, or anyone who just loves beautiful women being chaotic together! It's for people who grew up with the animated series and want to see them in a story that's stylish, mature, and full of heart.

What makes *Sirens: Love Hurts* unique to Black Label?
The fun of a Black Label book is that it can exist a little outside continuity. We see these women at an earlier point in their lives—Harley has just broken up with the Joker, Bat and Cat aren't officially together, and Dinah's just gotten engaged to Ollie. It lets me play with their emotions before everything's fully formed.

Also the freedom that comes with being a Black Label book is that we can be sexier. It's still a DC comic, there's action and a serial killer to stop, but it's driven by relationships first. We wanted a story where the romance and the friendship matter as much as the action.

The book follows the Sirens through four seasons. How did that structure come about?
I knew I wanted this to feel like a year in their lives. Four girls, four seasons. Every issue is oversized and themed around a different season, from summer wedding prep to winter heartbreak. This calls back to stories like *The Long Halloween* or *Year One*, and I wanted to bring that same rhythm to a story about our Sirens and how their friendship evolves.

DON'T MISS *SIRENS: LOVE HURTS* #1, ON SALE FEBRUARY 2026!

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